

Italian

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Boccaccio and Other Novelists
Code	ITU33104
Semester	2
ECTS credits	10
Pre-requisite	

Module Content

Week One:

Introduction to Boccaccio and the Decameron. Themes, topics, techniques. Novella and “short story”. Framing the book through the Author’s Preface and interventions.

Week Two:

Decameron: Setting and values, including Religion

The Introduction, the 7+3 storytellers. Stories I.1, I.2, I.3, I.4.

Week Three:

Fortuna: the city, the sea and the wide world

Decameron II.5, II.7, II.8, II.9.

Week Four:

Amore: Love is a losing game (sometimes)

Decameron. III.1, III.9, III.10, Introduction to Day IV Intro, IV.1, IV.5.

Week Five:

Love: The rocky road to happiness

Decameron V.4, V.8, V.9, V.10.

Week Six:

Ingegno: The saving grace of a sharp wit

Introduction to Day VI.

Decameron VI. – Intro – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10

Week Seven.

Study Week

Week Eight:

Ingegno: Low tricks and cruel revenges — for what?

Decameron VIII.3, VIII.6, VIII.7, IX.3, IX.5

Week Nine:

The beffa redeemed

Video class

Week Ten:

Cortesia: Unbelievable virtue, legendary generosity

Decameron X.3, X.5, X.9, X.10

Week Eleven:

Shakespeare's Italian sources

Romeo and Juliet, The Merchant of Venice, Othello, All's Well That End's Well....

Week Twelve:

International Boccaccio

On page, on stage, on screen

Details and running-order of sessions may be subject to change.



Aims

By exploring themes and techniques in the Decameron, and comparing some selections from related texts, participants will place Boccaccio as a key figure in the Western tradition of storytelling, as a pioneer of Italian prose writing, and as a receiver and transmitter of literary culture who has shaped narrative traditions in Italy and the world.

Assessment

One 3500–4000-word essay